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PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION
OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 16 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued on 15 April 1999 by the Government of Costa Rica concerning the situation in Kosovo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bernd NIEHAUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Official communiqué issued on 15 April 1999 by the Government of Costa Rica concerning the situation in Kosovo

The Republic of Costa Rica, true to its steadfast policy of devotion to the principles of international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and to its tradition of peace and respect for human rights, reiterates its fervent appeal to the parties to the conflict in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to renounce violence and to seek diplomatic solutions, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in order to guarantee peace, justice, security and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in the Balkans.

The Government of Costa Rica reaffirms its appeal to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to stop the massacres, atrocities and genocide of the Kosovars of ethnic Albanian origin and urges the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to cease the use of force, resume negotiations and guarantee respect for the rights of the Kosovars of ethnic Albanian origin.

In this context, the Government of Costa Rica welcomes the proposals of the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union to resolve the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Costa Rica is pleased to note that these proposals are designed to guarantee the fundamental rights of the Kosovars of ethnic Albanian origin, to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to respect the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations relating to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Government of Costa Rica urges the parties to engage in effective negotiations with a view to formulating, at the earliest possible date, a peace accord acceptable to all the parties involved.

Costa Rica reaffirms its conviction that responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations Security Council. The Government of Costa Rica appeals to the Security Council and to the General Assembly to play a more active role in the solution of the conflict in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and urges the Secretary-General to continue and intensify his efforts in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The Government of Costa Rica expresses its profound concern at the heart-rending situation of the refugees and internally displaced persons in the Balkans. Costa Rica appeals to the international humanitarian organizations to step up their efforts to alleviate the humanitarian crisis afflicting these people.